



## CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

مجموعة الاتصال الخاصة بالرصد قبالة السواحل الصومالية • Groupe de contact sur la piraterie au large de la Somalie  
Grupo de Contacto sobre la Pirateria frente a costas de Somalia • 打击索马里海域海盗联络组  
Контактная группа по борьбе с пиратством у берегов Сомали

### Press Communiqué

Via CGPCS Secretariat, Victoria, Seychelles

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

1100hrs -

**CGPCS Chairman, Minister Joel Morgan, welcomes release of crew of FV Naham 3 Released by Somali Pirates after over 4 1/2 Years in Captivity.**



“It is indeed pleasing to understand that at long last, the crew of FV Naham 3 have been released from their captivity this after the tireless work of many, and in particular the efforts of Hostage Support Partners (HSP) for Oceans Beyond Piracy. It was earlier this year at the 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the CGPCS, held in Victoria,

Seychelles, that John Steed of Oceans Beyond Piracy, made an impassioned plea that the contact group must appreciate that while acts of piracy being committed have been greatly reduced and contained, that piracy was not at an end, this as long as hostages remained. Those attending the plenary supported this call wholeheartedly.

Today as the 26 remaining hostages of the Omani flagged vessel are going through the process to be reunited with their families, we are reminded and pay tribute to the three crew members who are not going home and who have since passed.

As Chairman of the contact group I extend a job well done to all involved in this release. I again state that the work for 2017 remains to ensure that Somali piracy does not re-energise itself becoming once again a scourge on our seas, and that focus remain on the handful of hostages still in captivity to bring them home safely as well.” Minister Joël Morgan, Chairman CGPCS

Statement from Mr. John Steed: -

*“We are very pleased to announce the release of the Naham 3 crew early this morning. They are currently in the safe hands of the Galmudug authorities and will be repatriated using a UN Humanitarian flight shortly and then on to their home countries. They are reported to be in reasonable condition considering their ordeal. They are all malnourished. Four are currently receiving medical treatment by a Doctor in Galcayo. They have spent over four and a half years in deplorable conditions away from their families,” said John Steed the Coordinator of the Hostage Support Partners (HSP) for Oceans Beyond Piracy. I would like to thank the efforts of our Partners, the Galmudug authorities and the local community who made this release possible. In particular, the efforts of Mr. Leslie Edwards of Compass Risk Management who has spent the last 18 months negotiating this release, and the work of Holman Fenwick Willan LLP, should be applauded.”*

Background information on the FV Naham 3:-

FV Naham 3. The Omani flagged fishing vessel was hijacked on 26 March 2012 roughly 65 nautical miles south of the Seychelles. Of the original 29-member crew, sadly one died during the hijacking and two more succumbed to illness during their captivity. The remaining 26 crewmembers spent much of their captivity on land in Somalia. The crew of the Naham 3 consisted of members from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

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